

# LIFE IS FOR LEARNING

**Your Committee, who work tirelessly to make U3A a success, are happy to answer any questions or take up any suggestions you may have. Please feel free to contact us.**

<b>President:</b>	Brent Morrell	0427 963 386	<b>Publicity:</b>	Diana March	0499 822 661
<b>Vice President:</b>	Marian Woodberry	0412 649 766	<b>Grants:</b>	Tony Guster	0447 781 820
<b>Secretary:</b>	Daina Braddock	0412 416 892		Anne Chase	0448108 249
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Shirley Sims	0413 189 377		Judith Hennig	0407 838 220
<b>Courses:</b>	Anna Harper	0427 519 472		Bev Hartigan	0438 507 606
<b>Web Master:</b>	Terry Marter	0427 618 145		Susan Luchich	0428 617 953

## FROM THE EDITOR

Diana March



Welcome to 2017 and another eventful year for U3A Riverland. It is always lovely to receive positive feedback from members who have participated in an activity and we are very grateful to those who act as tutors or facilitators for these groups. It's not a difficult job—just share your knowledge, skills and enthusiasm.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter we are excited to be hosting the inaugural state-wide gathering of U3A members. Please join our Riverland Rendezvous activities from May 9-11. You can attend on all 3 days or just choose what is of interest to you. All details are on our website and registration for this event needs to be done soon—especially if you wish to take part in one of the activities. This is a prime opportunity for us to showcase our beautiful region and to extend our warm Riverland hospitality to our visitors.

We welcome two new Committee Members who were elected at the recent AGM. Both Bev Hartigan and Susan Luchich have been long-standing members. We thank Jan Owens who has retired from the Committee for her enthusiasm and energy in getting numerous courses and activities off the ground—we will miss her input.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### AGM 23/2/17

Brent Morrell



I am pleased to be able to report on U3A Riverland's second year.

In 2016, U3A Riverland delivered 230 activities involving over 1300 member attendances. Obviously some of you attended multiple times. That is well over 2,500 hours of our members being active socially, physically and mentally. We can all be very proud of that.

I thank you, our members, for embracing the concept of U3A, your Committee who have created and managed its operations and, in particular, our tutors and facilitators who have shared their time and talents for the benefit of us all.

To be frank, I feared that after the excitement of our start-up year there could have been a fall off in membership and activity, but it didn't happen. Membership increased slightly and we were able to offer a wide range of new activities including conversational French, Mah-jong, philosophy, board games, creative writing, book club, and float making.

We were able to obtain a Federal Government volunteers' grant which has

funded the purchase of a photocopier to save us going cap in hand to local Councils or using our own home printers. We also have purchased a data projector for tutors' use, paint supplies and easels for the art group, and Mah-jong sets. Further funding has been received for a CD player and music subscription for our "More than Mozart" group, creative writing projects and tutors' travel expenses.

2016 was a very successful year for U3A Riverland and I hope 2017 will follow the trend, but we do have some challenges.

Term 1 will have a smaller offering of activities this year. All of the popular activities are continuing and are well supported. A number of our tutors are taking a break and some activities were one-offs or not well supported. I ask you all – if there is an activity you would like offered please approach any Committee Member. Better still, gather up two or three like-minded friends and present us with an idea. We will provide you with the infrastructure and, if necessary, guidance, to get it off the ground.

Since our inception we have been very

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

fortunate to have the Riverland Arts Gallery as a home base—at minimal cost. Whilst this has had its limitations, it has been most appreciated. However, due to funding cuts, Country Arts SA will shortly cease operations at the Gallery and has called for expressions of interest for someone to take over the running of the premises. Whilst they are offering a peppercorn rental, the operating costs of the Gallery far exceed our ability to pay, so we have been actively seeking a new base.

## COMING SOON



We have had a generous offer to share the Berri RSL clubrooms in Strawbridge Street and we will be making a decision on that shortly.

Perhaps our biggest challenge this year will be our Riverland Rendezvous from May 9th to 11th. This is our opportunity to showcase U3A to potential members throughout the Riverland, as well as to showcase the Riverland to other U3A members across the State. I urge you all to get involved with this either by helping with the running of the event or participating in the activities - or both.

In closing, I would like to thank you all again for your continued support of U3A Riverland and pay tribute to your Committee, who are not only a fun group of people to work with, but they get the job done.

## Please put your hand



# Riverland Rendezvous up if you can help

You have already received a flyer about our Riverland Rendezvous (9-11 May). All the information about activities, dinners, cruise etc are on our website and we urge you to take a look and become involved in this inaugural event. Register for an activity or just join us for a meal where you will meet like-minded U3A members from across the state. We also need help with a multitude of jobs and if you can spare an hour or two on any of these days we would love to hear from you. Remember this a volunteer-driven organisation.

For details go to  
[www.u3ariverland.org](http://www.u3ariverland.org)



DON'T MISS  
**OUT** Registrations  
close April 10

## PAINTED DESERT

One of our members has brought the plight of the Painted Desert in South Australia's north, to our attention. The following information is taken from the Wilderness Society's website. If you would like to have an input find out more at:

[www.wilderness.org.au/articles/painted-desert](http://www.wilderness.org.au/articles/painted-desert)

The spectacular Painted Desert of South Australia is a national treasure, an artist's dream come to life in nature. Yet this stunning landscape, and the Australian Outback's most important water resource – the Great Artesian Basin – are threatened by one of the most destructive mining projects planned for this country.

Protecting the iconic Australian Outback and its precious water, and stopping fossil fuel exploitation are key concerns for The Wilderness Society

The South Australian Campaign Centre is building a strong case for the protection of the Painted Desert and the Great Artesian Basin. We will keep fighting until we have halted these destructive fossil fuel projects. Our natural heritage, the value of water in the Outback, and a safe climate future are all too important to be threatened by short-term coal mining.



### You can help protect the Painted Desert and the Great Artesian Basin:

1. Contact the SA Campaign Centre to find out more:  
The Wilderness Society (SA)  
08 8231 6586  
[sa@wilderness.org.au](mailto:sa@wilderness.org.au)
2. Talk to your local member of Parliament and ask them to champion the protection of the Painted Desert.
3. Become a campaign champion – volunteer.
4. Join the Facebook Group: The Wilderness Society South Australia to keep up to date with local campaign actions and events.

# Christmas celebrations



USA Riverland members gathered for an informal Christmas lunch at Ruston's Rose garden on Wednesday 7 December 2016

**STAYING CONNECTED** 

Broadband for Seniors helps senior Australians get the skills they need to use computers and access the Internet. BFS kiosks are located all around Australia. They are available to anyone 50 years or over who wants to learn how to use a computer and surf the Internet for **FREE**.

**A public kiosk in the Riverland is located at The Chaffey Community Centre, 86 Nineteenth Street Renmark. Ph: 85865745**

Learning online is fun. Through Broadband for Seniors, you can access free online computer tutorials. The online tutorials can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection.

If you want to read an excellent government published document on "Protecting yourself online" go to the website [bfseniors.com.au/cybersafety](http://bfseniors.com.au/cybersafety) and click on the link to the publication. The following case studies have come from that publication:



Lesley is bright eyed and keen to learn as much as she can about technology. Sadly Lesley's husband died when she was a young woman and, as a war widow, she attends the Broadband for Seniors kiosk at Melbourne Legacy.

Melbourne Legacy provides widows and families with support, including counsel-ling, advocacy, financial assistance and social support. Now through the kiosk they also offer support with using technology. Seniors, like Lesley are matched with the right tutor and computer system to use. Many bring their own laptops, iPads and Androids but Lesley is satisfied using the kiosk computers to learn more about Microsoft Word.



Kevin understands that the world has changed quite a bit from when he was younger, but he also knows how important it is to try to keep up with the pace of change – learning about the Internet is part of this.

The BFS kiosk at Sunshine RSL is helping him with this. Each Friday, Kevin catches up with Volunteer Tutor Kerry and together they work out what they are going to tackle in the lesson. Usually Kevin has a question or a query that he wants to work through and sometimes Kevin and the tutor need to 'nut' these things out together.

**JESSICA'S PEDIGREE PUP WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE**

"I was thinking about buying a dog and was looking through an online classified website.

I fell in love with the photo of little Buster instantly. He was a 2 year old golden cocker spaniel with adorable ears. He also had an impressive pedigree. Best of all he wasn't very expensive as his family was moving overseas and they wanted to make sure he went to a good home

I contacted the seller immediately and after a lengthy email exchange, they decided that I was a good fit to take care of Buster.

I made a money transfer of \$375 to pay for Buster to be transported to me and went on a pet shopping spree so that Buster had everything he needed when he arrived.

I went to the airport to pick him up but they said they had no record of Buster in their systems. I tried calling the seller but the phone was disconnected.

I contacted the online classifieds website but they told me I was the victim of a classifieds scam and that several other people had complained about the ad.

Besides the \$375 I lost to the scammer I was also left with a pile of dog toys and food that I didn't need."

**DAVID WAS SCAMMED \$450 AND COULDN'T PAY HIS RENT**

"I'm really busy with work, so I signed up to online banking and found it was an easy way to pay my bills and maintain my accounts.

One day I received an email which looked like it had come from my bank saying that my account had some irregularities and that I needed to log into a secure site to confirm my identity. It had the proper logo and everything, so I clicked on the link in the email and typed in my details.

I was still worrying about my account later that day, so to be safe I rang the bank to double check that the problem was fixed. It was then that the bank lady told me that the message was a scam designed to trick me into revealing my banking passwords and details.

She said the bank didn't email its customers like that. She was really helpful and froze my account straight away. I was relieved but someone had already taken out \$450. It could have been much worse but I didn't have enough to pay the rent that week and I had to change all my banking details and get new cards, which was a pain."

**STAY SMART ONLINE** [www.staysmartonline.gov.au](http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au)

Stay Smart Online is the Australian Government's online safety and security website, designed to help everyone understand the risks and simple steps we can take to protect our personal and financial information online.

Remain cautious in 2017 about fake emails that claim to be from reputable businesses. These emails are used to deliver viruses, ransomware and other malware.

Researchers recently warned people to be aware of fake emails claiming to be from Citibank and Qantas that aim to capture information such as passwords, contact information and bank account details.

"Phishing emails" have become more sophisticated and may include logos, disclaimers and other features from the legitimate business the message claims to be from. Many phishing emails have become hard to distinguish from legitimate emails.